

March 5th, 2015

Testimony in support of HB 6784 for Paid Sick Days for more workers

To Representative Tercyak, Senator Gomes, and distinguished members of the Labor Committee:

Hi my name is Roberto Mendes and I've been Wal-Mart employee for more than 4 yrs. I work in the automotive and electronics department. I'm a father of four children--three girls and one boy. As you can imagine that takes up a lot of my time once I'm home from work. My wife also works and helps provide for our family.

In 2012, I started getting 5 paid sick days a year because of the new law. It has been a blessing. Whoever has kids can tell you that kids get sick pretty often. I have four and sometimes it seems like there is always one of them sick. Before 2012, whenever one of our kids was sick we had to make the decision of either taking the day off and not get paid or sending them to school sick.

I am very grateful that I get paid sick days through my job because I have been able to take a few days off a year when my children really need me to stay home and take care of them. This has given me and my wife the opportunity to manage our financial responsibilities, pay our bills on time, pay our rent but at the same time care for our beautiful children.

I think everyone should have the right to get paid sick days, no matter who they work for or what their job is. It just does not seem fair that some of us get to care for our loved ones while others continue to struggle.

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